

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J, each of said ~~the~~ items having at least one symbolic attribute; each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value of a symbolic attribute, said ~~the~~ method comprising the steps of:

computing a variance ~~for~~ of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of each of said ~~the~~ items; and

selecting at least one mean item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said ~~the~~ variance as the mean symbolic value.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~including further comprising the step of assigning a label to said ~~the~~ plurality of items using at least one symbolic ~~the~~ symbolic value from said ~~of the~~ selected mean item~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ plurality of items are a cluster ~~including of~~ similar items.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ items are programs.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ items are content.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ items are products.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of computing the a variance is performed as follows includes:

determining  $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - x_{\mu})^2$  for each item,  $\mu$ ,

where  $J$  is a cluster of items from the same of a class,  $x_i$  is the symbolic value of each an item,  $i$ , and  $x_{\mu}$  is the symbolic value of each item,  $\mu$ , and

selecting the at least one mean item that provides a minimum value of the item(s) in said plurality of items,  $J$ , such that it minimizes said  $\text{Var}(J)$ .

9. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing a plurality of items,  $J$ , each of said the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, said the method comprising the steps of:

computing a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for each of said the items; and

characterizing said plurality of items,  $J$ , with at least one mean item by selecting the symbolic value of at least one item that minimizes said the variance as the a mean symbolic value that characterizes the symbolic attribute of the plurality of items.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of assigning a label to said the plurality of items using at least one symbolic the symbolic value from said of one of the at least one mean items that minimize the variance.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said the plurality of items are a cluster including of similar items.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said ~~step of computing a variance is performed as follows~~ includes:

determining  $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - x_\mu)^2$  for each item,  $\mu$ ,

where J is a cluster of items from the same of a class,  $x_i$  is the symbolic value of each an item, i, and  $x_\mu$  is the symbolic value of each item,  $\mu$ , and

selecting the value  $x_\mu$  of at least one item that provides a minimum value of item(s) in said plurality of items, J, such that it minimizes said Var (J).

14. (Currently amended) A system for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J, each of said ~~the~~ items having at least one symbolic attribute; ~~each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, said the system comprising:~~

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said ~~the~~ memory, said ~~the~~ processor configured to:

compute a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to for each of said ~~the~~ items; and

select ~~the~~ at least one mean item having a symbolic value that minimizes said ~~the~~ variance as the mean symbolic value.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said ~~the~~ processor is further configured to assign a label to said ~~the~~ plurality of items using at least one symbolic value from said ~~the~~ selected at least one mean item.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said ~~the~~ plurality of items are a cluster including of similar items.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said step of computing a the processor is configured to compute the variance is performed as follows by:

determining  $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - x_\mu)^2$  for each item  $\mu$ ,

where J is a cluster of items from the same a class,  $x_i$  is the symbolic value of each an item, i, and  $x_\mu$  is the symbolic value of each item,  $\mu$ , and

selecting the at least one mean item(s) in said plurality of items, J, such that it that has symbolic value  $x_\mu$  that minimizes said the Var (J).

19. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J, each of said the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said the computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to compute a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for each of said the items; and

a step to select at least one item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said the variance as the mean symbolic value.

20. (Currently amended) A system for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J, each of said the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, said the system comprising:

means for computing a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for each of said the items; and

means for selecting at least one item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said the variance as the mean symbolic value.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, including:

computing a plurality of other variances of other symbolic values of a plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items relative to each other symbolic value of each of the items; and

selecting a plurality of other mean items, each other mean item having the other symbolic value that minimizes each other variance.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, including

characterizing the plurality of items using the symbolic value of the at least one mean item and the other symbolic values of the plurality of other mean items.

23. (New) The method of claim 9, including:

computing a plurality of other variances of other symbolic values of a plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items relative to each other symbolic value of each of the items; and

selecting a plurality of other symbolic values that minimize each other variance as a plurality of other mean symbolic values that characterize the plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items.